

II. REMARKS/ARGUMENTS UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

A. Remarks regarding amendments to the Specification

In compliance with MPEP §608.01(d), the Summary is amended to be consistent with independent claims 1 and 7.

B. Remarks regarding amendments to the Claims

The Examiner found the amendment filed on Jul. 14, 2004, canceling all claims drawn to the elected invention (viz., claims 1-7) and presenting only claims drawn to a non-elected invention (claims 20-49), to be non-responsive (MPEP §821.03).

In the Office action dated Jan. 20, 2004, the Examiner objected to claim 5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but found claim 5 "allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

In compliance with MPEP §821.03, original claims 1-7 are reinstated. Rather than amending claim 5, claim 1 is amended to include all the limitations of claim 5 and intervening claim 4. Claim 2 is a limitation on amended claim 1. Claims 3-6 are canceled. Claim 7 is amended for punctuation.

C. Remarks regarding amendment to the Abstract

The Abstract is amended to be consistent with the scope of claims 1 and 7.

D. Reply to rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Becker '898

In the Jan. 20, 2004 Office action, claims 1-3 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by German published application DE 2654898 to H. Becker

("Becker '898"). As amended claim 1 includes the limitations of claims 4 and 5, claim 2 is a limitation on amended claim 1, and claims 3-6 are canceled, the following argument relates only to claim 7.

Becker '898 discloses a backing strip made of aluminum foil, synthetic fiber or paper. One side of the strip is coated with an adhesive and covered with a protective film. The other side is coated with a wax layer which provides a low-friction running surface for a ski when, after removing the film, the strip is adhesively applied to the ski's underside.

Claim 7 is not anticipated by this reference because the claim recites the combination of (a) a board whose underside has attached thereto "stick-on sheeting... having a low-friction durable layer for engaging in sliding contact with" (b) a "low-friction durable sheeting being supported by and in contact with [a] support surface." Becker '898 does not teach laying a low-friction synthetic surface over snow.

III. CONCLUSION

For all the above reasons, Applicant believes that claims 1, 2 and 7 are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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